REMARKS

Appreciation is expressed for the indication of allowability of claims 5 and 6. Claim 5 has been rewritten in independent form and is in condition for allowance. Claims 2, 3 and 19 have been made dependent on claim 5, and new claims 20 and 21 depend on claim 5, such that claims 2, 3, 6, 19, 20, 21 are in condition for allowance with claim 5.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of claims 2 and 3, thereby providing antecedent basis for the electrode strips of dependent claims 4 and 11. Claims 4 and 5 have also been amended to provide antecedent basis.

Claim 1 is directed to a method of producing an OLED display, wherein the first and second electrode films are produced in a structured manner in the form of electrode strips running perpendicular to each other by means of contact printing processes, for example roller coating processes as shown in Figs. 1 and 6. Such a process of manufacturing an OLED display is not disclosed in nor suggested by any of the prior art documents cited in the First Office Action.

Claim 1 stands rejected on Yano U.S. Patent No. 5,696,523 under 35 USC 102 and on Nakamura U.S. Patent No. 5,427,858 in view of LaPoint U.S. Patent No. 5,410,217 and Haynes U.S. Patent No. 6,034,481 under 35 USC 103(a). Barnardo WO 99/07189 has also been cited against claim 2.

Yano discloses a method for producing a liquid crystal device including plasma cells. As mentioned at col. 7, lines 7 to 11, an individual plasma cell of this liquid crystal device comprises column electrodes 19a to 19c, insulation layers 20a to 20c located directly on the column electrodes, plasma chambers 18a and 18b and a transparent electrode film 32 located directly on a substrate as for example shown in Figure 1. At col. 7, lines 34 to 43 Yano et al. describes the manufacturing of the plasma chamber, wherein column electrodes 19a and 19c are formed by screen-printing on strip like insulation layers 31a to 31c being located on a glass substrate 17 as shown in Figure 1. Between the insulation layers 31a and 31c and the glass substrate 17 a transparent electrode film 32 is formed overall on the surface of the substrate as for example shown in Figure 2. Figure 1 also shows a liquid crystal layer 16, arranged between

strip-like data electrodes 15 and a dielectric sheet 13 arranged on the plasma cells. Yano discloses in col. 7 lines 49 to 52, that these data electodes can be laminated to the dielectric sheet and the liquid crystal layer. Yano does not teach producing first and second electrode strips by a contact printing process as claimed by the invention, because the electrode film 32 is not structured as a perpendicular strip, and no manufacturing methods are described for the data electrodes 15.

Moreover, Yano describes the formation of the structured column electrodes 19a to 19c on very robust insulation layers 31a to 31c which are composed of silicon dioxide or silicon nitride as for example disclosed at col. 7, line 37. It is known in the art, that organic electroluminescent materials are much more sensitive and are less robust then, for example, inorganic insulation materials like silicon dioxide. Therefore it is not obvious for a person of ordinary skill in the art, having knowledge of Yano et al., to form structured electrode strips on a sensitive organic electroluminescent material.

Nakamura teaches the formation of an organic electroluminscent device, wherein the first and second electrodes of the device can be formed using a printing method. Nakamura clearly differs from the invention according to claim 1 in two major points.

1. Nakamura does not disclose the use of contact printing process for production of the first and second electrode as claimed by the invention, but describes in a very general printing processes, e.g., ink jet printing. Contact printing processes have advantage over, e.g., ink jet printing, in that the column and row electrodes can be produced in a structured manner on a large area of the substrate within a short period of time. Strip like electrodes show a uniform thickness. Inkjet printing is much slower than contact printing and also does not have the benefit of contact printing of produce electrodes with a uniform thickness.

2. Nakamura does not teach to print the electrodes in a strip-like form by using a contact printing process as in claim 1. Nakamura simply shows extensive large unstructured electrode films as for example in the Figures 3 and 4. In contrast to that, the invention of claim 1 has the advantage that the formation of the electrodes and their structuring is carried out in one process step using contact printing processes.

LaPointe discloses the formation of an inorganic electroluminescent lamp by screen printing both electrodes of the inorganic electroluminescent lamp. This method also involves the screen printing of a second electrode on an inorganic electroluminescent layer made of phosphorus. It is well known in the art, that these inorganic electroluminescent layers are more stable than organic electroluminscent layers. Therefore it is not obvious for someone of ordinary skill in the art to use a contact printing process for formation of an electrode on an organic electroluminescent layer. Moreover, LaPoint does not describe the structured formation of strip-like electrodes.

Haynes is merely cited to show that an ink described in LaPoint includes ITO.

Barnardo discloses the formation of organic electroluminescent layers on a substrate using standard printing techniques like screen printing. Barnardo et al does not describe the use of contact printing processes for the formation of structured strip-like electrodes.

In summary, the method of the invention according claim 1 has major advantage, that a matrix of a strip-like electrodes running perpendicular to each other can be formed in a very reliable, simple and fast manner, using contact printing processes. Using the method of the invention, someone can form and structure a plurality of electrodes in one process step, without the need to do further complicated processing, for example, photolithographic processes. This method is neither described in nor suggested by any of the prior art documents

Enclosed is a $18.00 check for excess claim fees and a $420.00 check for an extension of time. Please apply any other charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

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